

## SENATE RESOLUTION 31

By Woodson

### A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the University of Tennessee Rugby Football Club.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable sports team is the University of Tennessee Rugby Football Club (UTRFC), which since its establishment in 1970, has compiled an unprecedented record of success on the playing field; and

WHEREAS, one of the most demanding sports, rugby requires stamina, strength, and fortitude in competition during continuous play, testing each player's skill and determination to achieve a team victory; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Butch Robertson for almost 30 years on a voluntary basis and Assistant Coach Marty Bradley for 10 years on a voluntary basis, the UT rugby team is one of only six teams that has won a match for three consecutive years in the National Tournament, competing in 2004-2006; and

WHEREAS, no strangers to awards and accolades, the 2005 and 2007 teams won the Championship of the South, having finished runner-up in 2004 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, champions both on and off the field, team members have been instilled with the Standards of UTRFC Rugby: Personal Responsibility, Sound Decision Making, Integrity, Pride, Organization, and Respect; and

WHEREAS, Coach Robertson and his staff, through the coaching of the principles of the sport of rugby, have sent out hundreds of young men who have continued to contribute to the sport by coaching, refereeing, and continuing to play after graduation; and

WHEREAS, seven UT rugby team players have been All-Americans and three players have proudly represented their country as members of the U.S. national rugby team, the U.S. Eagles; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Head Coach Butch Robertson and Assistant Coach Marty Bradley the UTRFC enjoys the guidance and support of Assistant Coach Bill Peterson, Assistant Coach Tyler Huskey, Assistant Coach Mike Weldon, Assistant Coach David Mann, Coach Mark Lane, Coach Robert Palmer, Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Mike Casey, and Sports Physical Therapist Mick Larrabee; and

WHEREAS, the members of the University of Tennessee rugby team include: Matt Abernathy, Tom Abernathy, Chip Adcock, Jacob Arms, Tony Baker, Jacob Ballesteros, Taylor Bayless, Travis Baysingar, Scott Blackburn, Zachary Boswell, Jordan Bowlus, Jonathan Brown, Jon Camp, Jeff Chapman, Wayne Chermely, Jared Coleman, Ben Davis, Stuart Deaderick, Kyle DiMeola, Matt Duncan, Jim Foust, Tyler Friend, Joel Fugate, Benji Goff, Ben Gowdy-Chase, Charlie Green, Josh Gruner, Jason Hall, Daniel Harrison, Kevin Hartley, Ethan Herman, Jonathan Houck, Jared Huisinigh, Will James, Caleb Jones, Seth Jones, Connor Kelly, Rhett Ketschke, Jeff Knotts, Hunter Lee, Reysheid Mata, Grant McCartney, Joe McLaughlin, Brad Meccia, Andrew Melroy, Zack Murphy, Steve Nabors, Tony Nelson, Kevin O'Brien, Witt Parrish, Mark Paul, Patrick Poole, Joseph Potter, Shane Randolph, Steven Reese, Jimmy Reid, Jonathan Rice, Mark Rice, Michael Schober, David Silverstein, Brendan Slyman, Steve Spinoso, Blaine Stalans, Philip Strickland, Brian Strong, Paul Sturdivant, Mike Sweany, Prescott Weldon, Mike White, Luke Woods, Gabe Woodson, and Eric Wright; and

WHEREAS, the members of UTRFC epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the rugby pitch; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a successful rugby season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the University of Tennessee Rugby Football Club for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the young people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that honor and commend Head Coach Butch Robertson and the University of Tennessee Rugby Football Club on their outstanding legacy of success and sportsmanship since 1970 and extend to them our best wishes for every success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.